

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-11 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 DHA-02 /053 W

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R 271100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3543

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FOLLOWING RECD FROM SAO PAULO DATED 23 JAN SENT ACTION BRASILIA
INFO RIO DE JANEIRO NOW BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

SAO PAULO 0181

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILL, PINS, ELAB, BR

SUBJECT: METALWORKERS UNION TO HOLD MASS FOR SLAIN WORKER

1. THE SAO PAULO METALWORKERS UNION HAS SCHEDULED A SEVENTH DAY MASS TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF LONGTIME MEMBER MANOEL FIEL FILHO AT THE HANDS OF THE SECOND ARMY DOI-CODI. SERVICE WILL BE HELD 9:00SATURDAY MORNING AT HISTORIC CARMO CHURCH LOCATED TWO BLOCKS FROM UNION HEAD-QUARTERS AND, INCIDENTALLY ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS FROM SAO PAULO'S MAIN CATHEDRAL THAT WAS THE SCENE OF THE HERZOG ECUMENICAL MUSS ALMOST THREE MONTHS AGO. IN CONVERSATION

WITH CONGEN LABOFF JANUARY 22, UNION VICE-PRESIDENT ORLANDO MALVEZI STRESSED THAT MASS WOULD BE STRICTLY A RELIGIOUS AFFAIR. HE SAID THAT THE UNION-SPONSORED RITE HAD NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH ANOTHER MASS FOR FILHO TO BE HELD ON EVENING OF SAME DAY WHICH HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE SAO PAULO AUXILIARY BISHOP DOM JOSE THKRER IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABSENCE OF CARDINAL ARNS. THE LATTER MASS WILL BED

CELEBRATED AT 7 P.M. IN A DENSELY POPULATED WORKING CLASS SECTION OF THE CITY NEAR THE FIEL FAMILY HOME AND PRESIDED OVER BY DOM ANVELICO SANDAOL BERNARDINO, THE BISHOP OF THE CITY'S EASTERN REGION, WHO IS THE PRINCIPAL CLERIC RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKER'S AFFAIRS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE.

2. ALLUDING TO THE HERZOG ECUMENICAL SERVICE STAGED BY CARDINAL ARNF, MALVEZI OBSERVED THAT THE UNION DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A "CARNIVAL" C "POLITICAL EVENT" OUT OF THE UNION CEREMONY. FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID, THE UNION HAS PURPOSELY NOT FORMALLY INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER UNIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE, ALTHOUGH ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND AS AN INDIVIDUAL. NORDID THE UNION COORDINATE ITS PLANS WITH OR EVEN CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE AUXILIARY ARCHBISHOP WHICH ORGANIZED THE OTHER MASS MENTIONED ABOVE. MALVEZI SAID FURTHER THAT DURING THE CEREMONY, NO PRONOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE BY UNION OFFICIALS OR OTHER LAY PEOPLE. WHILE HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT NONE OF THE ATTENDEES WOULD ATTEMPT TO INJECT A POLITICAL NOTE INTO THE CEREMONY, HE SAID THE UNION WOULD NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTIONS BY OTHERS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, MALVEZI SAID THE UNION HAS RECEIVED NO ORIENTATION FROM THE AUTHORITCES ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE CEREMONY. BUT, HE ADDED, LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM, HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE SECURITY ORGANS WERE WELL AWARE THE UNION DID NOT SEEK TO SEIZE FIEL'S DEATH AS A "BANDEIRA" TO STIR OPPOSITION TO THE REGIME AND THUS REALIZED NO GUIDANCE WAS NECESSARY. HE DID ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT THE TURNOUT WAS LIKELY TO BE LARGE, GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF METALWORKERS IN SAO PAULO, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE UNION HAS GIVEN THE MASS VIRTUAWLY NO PUBLICITY BEYOND A SIGN IN ITS HEADQUARTERS LOBBY.

4. MALVEZI REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS THAT MANOEL FIEL FILHO HAD NEVER OCCUPIED A UNION POSITION AND HAD PLAYED NO APPARENT ROLE WHATSOEVER AT UNION ASSEMBLIES. DURING THE SLAIN WORKER'S NINETEEN YEARS AT HIS FIRM

(METAL ARTE), NOW OWNED BY AMERICAN INTERESTS, HE GAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NO INKLING TO HIS FELLOW WORKERS THAT HE WAS POLITICALLY ACTIVE. ON THE CONTRARY, ACCORDING TO MALVEZI, FIEL

SHOWED EVERY INDICATION OF BEING A MODEL WORKER WHO BEFORE HIS DEATH WAS APPARENTLY BEING CONSIDERED TO BE NAMED BY METAL ARHE AS THE FIRM'S WORKER OF TYE YEAR. HE ADDED THAT A CHECK OF FIEL'S FILES AT THE UNION'S EXTENSIVE MEDICAL FACILITY REVEALED NO HISTORY OF MENTAL INSTABILITY THAT COULDR

LENDHSUPPORT TO THE SECOND ARMY CLAIM THAT HE HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE.

5. COMMENT: MALVEZI, A MEMBER OF THE ARENA STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL, LEFT A STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE UNION WAS PROCEEDING VERY CAUTIOUSLY AND WAS NOT ABOUT TO TRY SOMETHING THAT COULD PRECIPITATE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE AUTHORITIES. WHILE GENUINELY OUTRAGED BY FIEL'S DEATH, THE LEADERSHIP DOES NOT SEEM TO VIEW THE EVENT AS A CONSCIOUS PROVOCATION BY SECURITY ORGANS AGAINST THE UNION OR WORKERS PER SE, BUT RATHER A LAMENTABLE ACT AGAINST A BRAZILIAN THAT MUST NOT BE REPEATED. IN KEEPING WITH THIS REACTION, THE UNION, FIRST BY DISPATCHING A STRONGLY WORDED BUT, AS MALVEZI HASTENED TO POINT OUT NOT DISRESPECTFUL PROTEST NOTE TO THE PRESIDENT, AND SECONDLY BY ARRANGING A MASS CONSCIOUSLY SEPARATE FROM THAT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE, GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS DOING ITS DUTY, I.E., WHAT HAD TO BE DONE, BUT NOTHING MORE. INDEED, THE SAO PAULO METALWORKERS UNION WHICH PRIDES ITSELF ON ITS MILITANCY (IN THE BRAZILIAN CONTEXT) COULD NOT REALLY HAVE DONE LESS WITHOUT LOSING FACE.

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6. POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MASS ARRANGED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE THAN THAT BY THE UNION. A LARGE ATTENDANCE ON THE PART OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORKING CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD IS EXPECTED. NEVERTHELESS, THE FACT THAT THERE WILL BE TWO MASSES INSTEAD OF ONE AND

THAT THE ARCHDIOCESE AND THE UNION APPARENTLY ARE NOT COORDINATING TENDS TO SUGGEST THAT THE EFFORT IN THIS CASE IS MUCHMORE DISSIPATED THAN THAT OF THE PREVIOUS HERZOG EPISODE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE VERY POSITIVE REACTIONS AMONG OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS TO THE REMOVAL OF GENERAL EDNARDO AND TO GENERAL DILERMANDO'S AUSPICIOUS STATEMENTS CONCERNING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS TENDING TO DIMINISH THE LIKELIHOOD OF ORGANIZED TROUBLE PRESS REFERENCES TO THE ARCHDIOCESAN MASS HAVE BEEN SCANT.

7. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, STATE MAJORITY LEADER (MDB) ALBERTO GOLDMAN, PERHAPS FIGURATIVELY, TOLD POLOFF THAT FIEL FILHO'S BIGGEST CRIME HAD BEEN TO CONTRIBUTE 10 CRUZEIROS TO THE "VOZ OPERARIA." ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES, FIEL AND THE OTHERS ARRESTED WITH HIM WERE ALLEGEDLY SUSPECTED OF ATTEMPTING TO REORGANIZE THE PC DO B. ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS, FIEL WAS SPECIOUSLY SUSPECTED OF BEING A DISTRIBUTOR OF COMMUNIST LITERATURE IN HIS PLANT, HIS NAME ALLEGEDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVING BEEN INCLUDED ON A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "VOZ OPERARIA" FOUND AT THE TIME OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE PCB PRINTING PRESS A YEAR AGO.
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CRIMMINS

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